

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as shown in the following claim listing. The claim listing replaces all prior claim versions and claim listings in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A switch assembly comprising:

a housing; and

a set of contacts supported by said housing, said set of contacts comprising a first contact and a second contact;

said first contact including a first pad portion supported in said housing and a first connector portion protruding from said housing, said first pad portion comprising a first contact pad having a precious metal alloy construction, said first connector portion comprising a first compliant connector;

said second contact including a second pad portion supported in said housing, said second pad portion comprising a second contact pad having a precious metal alloy construction, said second contact pad portion ~~being~~ movable relative to said first contact pad portion ~~and~~ engageable with said first contact pad portion, said second contact also including a second connector portion protruding from said housing, said second connector portion comprising a second compliant connector;

said first and second compliant connectors comprising spaced current carrying members that have surfaces that engage current carrying surfaces of a mounting body into

which said compliant connectors are inserted to provide an electrical connection without the use of solder.

2. (Original) The switch assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein said second contact further includes a spring portion and an actuator portion, said spring portion being deflectable relative to said housing when a force acts on said actuator portion, said second pad portion being movable relative to said first pad portion when said spring portion deflects relative to said housing.

3. (Original) The switch assembly as recited in claim 2, wherein said set of contacts are normally closed, said spring portion biasing said second pad portion into engagement with said first pad portion, said spring portion being deflectable when a force acts on said actuator portion to an actuated condition wherein said second pad portion is disengaged from said first pad portion.

4. (Original) The switch assembly as recited in claim 2, wherein said set of contacts are normally opened, said spring portion biasing said second pad portion to disengage from said first pad portion, said spring portion being deflectable when a force acts on said actuator portion to an actuated condition wherein said second pad portion is engaged with said first pad portion.

5. (Original) The switch assembly as recited in claim 2, wherein actuator portion comprises a cam protruding from said housing, said cam having a cam surface.

6. (Original) The switch assembly as recited in claim 5, wherein said first and second connectors extend transversely from a bottom wall of said housing, said cam protruding from a top wall of said housing opposite said bottom wall.

7. (Original) The switch assembly as recited in claim 5, wherein said first and second connectors extend transversely from a bottom wall of said housing, said cam protruding from a side wall of said housing, said side wall extending transverse to said bottom wall.

8. (Original) The switch assembly as recited in claim 5, further comprising an actuator movable relative to said housing and said set of contacts, said actuator comprising at least one actuating member with at least one actuating portion movable into engagement with said cam surface to move said actuator portion and cause deflection of said spring portion which moves said second pad portion relative to said first pad portion.

9. (Original) The switch assembly as recited in claim 8, wherein said actuator comprises a rotary actuator rotatable relative to said housing and said set of contacts about an axis, said at least one actuating member being movable into

engagement with said cam surface upon rotation of said rotary actuator to move said actuator portion and cause deflection of said spring portion which moves said second pad portion relative to said first pad portion.

10. (Original) The switch assembly recited in claim 8, comprising a plurality of sets of contacts, said actuator comprising a plurality of actuator members, each of said actuator members corresponding to one of said sets of contacts and including at least one actuating portion for actuating said corresponding one of said sets of contacts.

11. (Original) The switch assembly recited in claim 10, wherein said plurality of sets of contacts and said actuator form a multiplexed or encoded switch wherein said actuator members are arranged to actuate said sets of contacts in a plurality of predetermined combinations depending on the position of said actuator relative to said housing.

12. (Original) The switch assembly recited in claim 10, wherein said plurality of sets of contacts each include a first contact and a second contact, each of said first contacts being made individually as single pieces of electrically conductive material, said second contacts being made as one single piece of electrically conductive material.

13. (Original) The switch assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein said first contact and said second contact each are made from a single piece of electrically conductive material.

14. (Original) The switch assembly as recited in claim 13, wherein said first contact includes a latch portion formed from said single piece of electrically conductive material forming said first contact and said second contact includes a latch portion formed from said single piece of electrically conductive material forming said second contact, each said latch portion comprising a deflectable member having a spring bias, said latch portions being biased into engagement with respective portions of said housing to releasably latch onto said housing and help connect said first and second contacts to said housing.

15. (Original) The switch assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein each of said first and second compliant connectors comprises spaced retainer members insertable into a hole for receiving said compliant connectors, said hole having an inner side wall, said retainer members having outer surfaces that engage said inner side wall and form an interference fit with said hole when inserted in said hole, said retainer members deflecting toward each other when inserted in said hole, said retainer members having a spring bias that biases said retainer members against said inner side wall to frictionally engage said inner side wall.

16. (Original) The switch assembly as recited in claim 15, wherein each of said compliant connectors further comprises a cross member extending transverse to said retainer members, said cross members including portions engageable with a surface surrounding said hole to limit insertion of said retainer members in said hole.

17. (Original) The switch assembly as recited in claim 1, further comprising first and second contact pads constructed of a precious metal alloy, said first contact pad being fastened to said first pad portion and said second contact pad being fastened to said second pad portion.

18. (Original) The switch assembly recited in claim 1, wherein at least one of said first and second connector portions comprises a plurality of compliant connectors.

19. (Original) The switch assembly recited in claim 1, further comprising an actuator supported in said housing and movable relative to said contacts, said actuator having a portion in abutting engagement and a portion protruding from said housing, said actuator being movable to cause deflection of said second contact which causes actuation of said first and second contacts.

Claims 20-25 (Canceled).

26. (Currently Amended) A switch assembly comprising:

a housing;

a first contact supported in said housing, said first contact comprising a compliant connector portion;

a first contact pad fastened to said first contact, said first contact pad being constructed of a precious metal alloy;

a second contact supported in said housing and movable relative to said first contact, said second contact comprising a compliant connector portion; and

a second contact pad fastened to said second contact, said second contact pad being constructed of a precious metal alloy;

said first and second compliant connector portions comprising spaced current carrying members that have surfaces that engage current carrying surfaces of a mounting body into which said compliant connector portions are inserted to provide an electrical connection without the use of solder.

27. (Original) The switch assembly recited in claim 26, wherein said first contact pad is constructed of a silver-nickel alloy and said second contact pad is constructed of a silver-tin oxide.

28. (Original) The switch assembly recited in claim 27, wherein said second contact further comprises an actuator

portion for receiving a force for causing deflection of said second contact to move said second contact pad relative to said first contact pad.

29. (Previously Presented) The switch assembly recited in claim 26, further comprising means for fastening said first and second contact pads to said first and second contacts, said means for fastening comprising at least one of a stamped connection, a staked connection, a press-fitted connection, a riveted connection, a soldered connection, and a welded connection.

30. (Original) The switch assembly recited in claim 26, wherein said first and second contact pads are capable of switching electrical currents of up to about 14 amperes without arcing.

31. (Original) The switch assembly recited in claim 26, wherein said first contact pad has a cylindrical configuration with a flat first contact surface and said second contact pad has a domed configuration with a domed second contact surface, said first and second contact surfaces being engageable with each other to permit electrical current to flow between said first and second contact pads.

32. (Original) The switch assembly recited in claim 31, wherein said domed second contact surface provides a wiping

action against said flat first contact surface when said switch assembly is actuated.

33. (Original) The switch assembly recited in claim 26, wherein said compliant connector portions of at least one of said first and second contacts comprise a plurality of compliant connector pins.